# PROMETHEA

MOORE · WILLIAMS III · GRAY · KLEIN

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ALKUTH.
I DON'T GET IT.
THIS IS WHAT YOU BUREAU SCIENCE-WONKS WERE SO EAGER WE SHOULD SEE?
A BLACK EGG?
NO, AGENT BALL. THAT'S A GLASS CONTAINER. OUR FIND IS PRESENTLY SPREAD IN A THIN FILM OVER THE INSIDE OF IT.
WE FOUND THE ORIGINAL FRAGMENT SQUIRMING AROUND OUTSIDE A VANDALIZED NEW YORK LOCK-UP, LAST YEAR.
RIGHT AFTER THAT "TROTSKY'S" INCIDENT.
THAT WAS THE ROCK-CONCERT RIOT WITH AN EARLY PROMETHEA SIGHTING...
SO HOW BIG WAS THIS LIVING FRAGMENT THING?
MAYBE FIVE MILLIMETERS. OBVIOUSLY, IT'S REGENERATED QUITE A LOT SINCE THEN.
ABOUT A MONTH AGO, IT STARTED TALKING.
ONLY IN MUDDLED OUTBURSTS, ADMITTEDLY, BUT IT MENTIONED THIS WOMAN YOU'RE INTERESTED IN.
APPARENTLY, THIS THING WAS SENT TO KILL HER AND FAILED, ACCOUNTING FOR ITS SORRY CONDITION.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN WAKE IT UP FOR YOU.
TINK TINK TINK
AH. THERE WE GO.
I SHOULD WARN YOU, IT'S MOSTLY INCOHERENT. FRANKLY, IT SEEMS BARELY ABLE TO HOLD ANY SORT OF CONSCIOUSNESS TOGETHER FOR LONG.
UGHH. HOW IT MOVES.
THAT'S HORRIBLE.

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JIM LEE - Editorial Director • JOHN NEE - VP & General Manager • SCOTT DUNBIER - Group Editor

Well?
What do you want?
WE'RE...WE'RE F.B.I. AGENTS. WHAT ARE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT PROMETHEA?
I'm...
I'm a SMEE. Sedimental...no...
Semi-mental... elementary... embassy?
Promethea... didn't she kill me?
That was BAD. They sent a blot to do a man's...jot?
WHO? WHO SENT YOU TO KILL PROMETHEA?

That... that was the TEMPLE, shirley?
The menry...the many roles of Henry ROYCE.
I'm tired now.
Goodbye.
HUH.
WELL, AT LEAST WE GOT A NAME.
THAT'S PROBABLY ALL YOU'LL GET FOR NOW.
COME ON. LET'S GO BACK TO MY OFFICE AND LET IT SLEEP.
MEANWHILE, IN OTHER NEWS...
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, AGENT HANSARD. ME AND LUCILLE WILL CHECK OUT THIS HENRY ROYCE.
...A SUBURBAN HOMICIDE INTRIGUES NEW YORK'S FIVE SWELL GUYS...

MY PLEASURE. YOU TAKE CARE NOW, AGENT BREUGHEL.
I'M AT THE HOUSE, IN QUEENS, WHERE MULTIPLE BODIES ARE BEING REMOVED, NOT ALL OF THE HUMAN.
I'VE GOT SWELL GUY MARVEL HAMILTON WITH ME HERE. MARV, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING?
UH... WELL, IT'S COMPLICATED.
THE RESIDENT HERE, BRUNO SMILIAC, WOULD SEEM TO HAVE BEEN THE MASTERMIND BEHIND SCIENCE-VILLAIN JELLYHEAD, WHOSE INERT BODIES YOU SEE.
THE HOLLOW-POINT BULLET THAT KILLED MR. SMILIAC, HOWEVER, LOOKS LIKE IT CAME FROM THE SUPPOSEDLY-DEAD PAINTED DOLL.
BUT, MARV, EVEN IF THE DOLL WAS STILL ALIVE, WHY WOULD HE RETURN TO KILL THIS ONE MINOR SCIENCE-VILLAIN?
THAT WE DON'T KNOW. NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE INVESTIGATION.
OKAY, MARV. THANKS FOR YOUR TIME.
THIS IS HAL SCHNAPPS, RETURNING YOU TO THE STUDIO.
♪ BABY, DOWN, DOWN, DOWN I GO... ♪
♪ ROUND AND ROUND I GO... ♪
♪...IN A SPIN... ♪
♪ NO WONDER THE SPIN I'M IN, I'M UNDER THAT... ♪
OH.
A CUSTOMER. HERE, LEMME TURN THIS CRAP OFF...
OLD MAGES DO IT BETTER
THANKS, HAL. NOW, NEWS JUST IN CONCERNING THE RESIGNATION OF MAYOR SONNY BASKERVIL

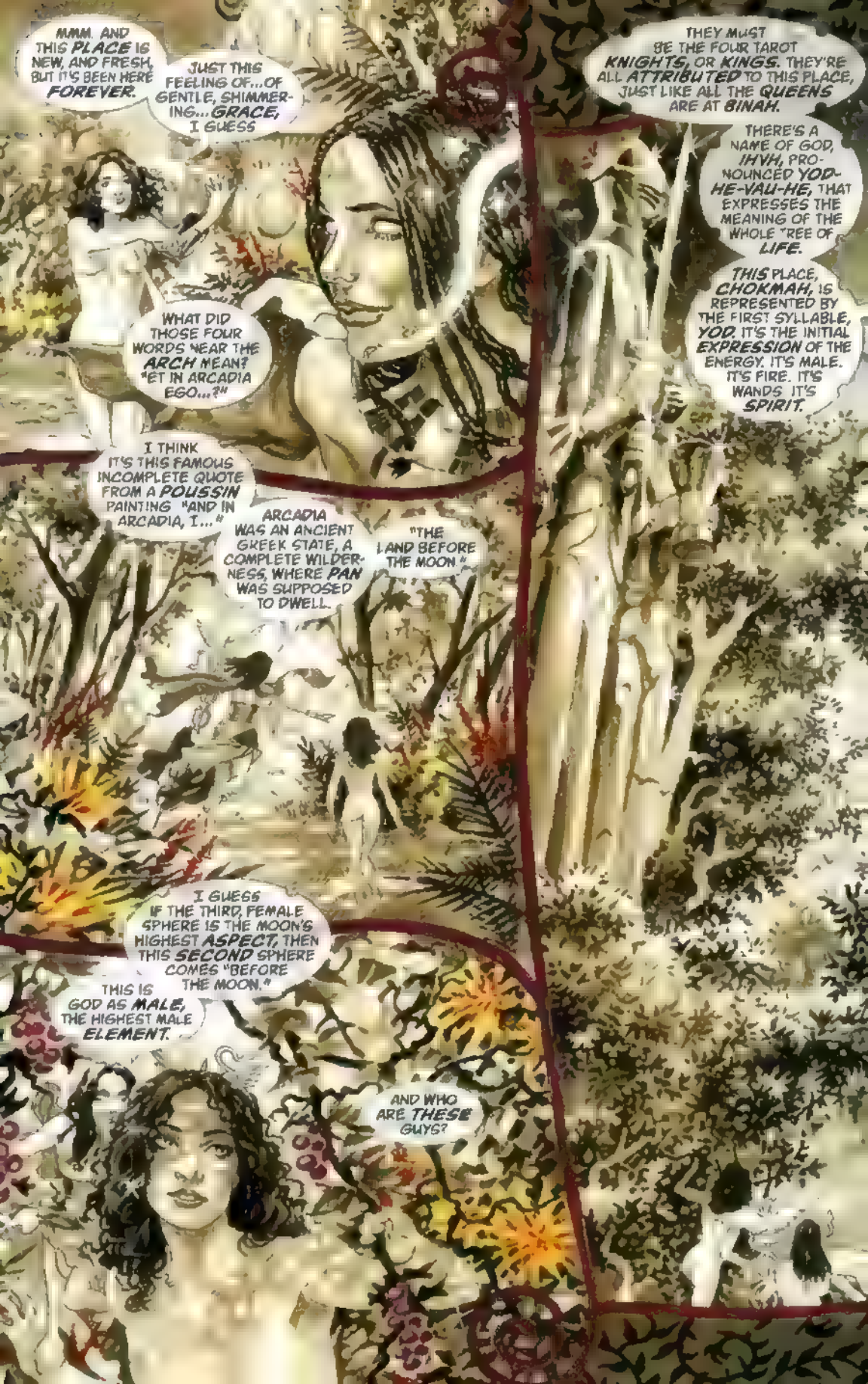
YEAH.
THAT'D BE GOOD.
Yes, we're OPEN
FAUST
ASTROLOGY
UHH...
WAIT A MINUTE. I KNOW YOU.
YOU WERE THE SQUEAKY KID IN THE LIBRARY WITH SOPHIE THAT ONE TIME.
CODE
UH-HUH. AND YOU WERE THE KIDDY-FIDDLER WITH THE BAD TEETH.
YOU STILL ARE. ME, ON THE OTHER HAND, I GOT PROMOTED.
I'M THE NEW PROMETHEA WHILE SOPHIE'S AWAY.
PROMETHEA'S MY WHADJACALL. MY SACRED IDENTITY.
OHHH... I GET IT.
OLD MAGES DO IT BETTER!
YOU CAME TO ME LIKE SOPHIE DID, HOPING I COULD SERVE YOU UP A LITTLE... YOU KNOW.
"MAGICAL INSTRUCTION."
WELL, FIRST OFF, IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE MAGICAL SYMBOL OF THE WAND, WHICH REPRESENTS...
OH, WHAT THE HECK, IT'S BETTER IF I JUST SHOW YOU...

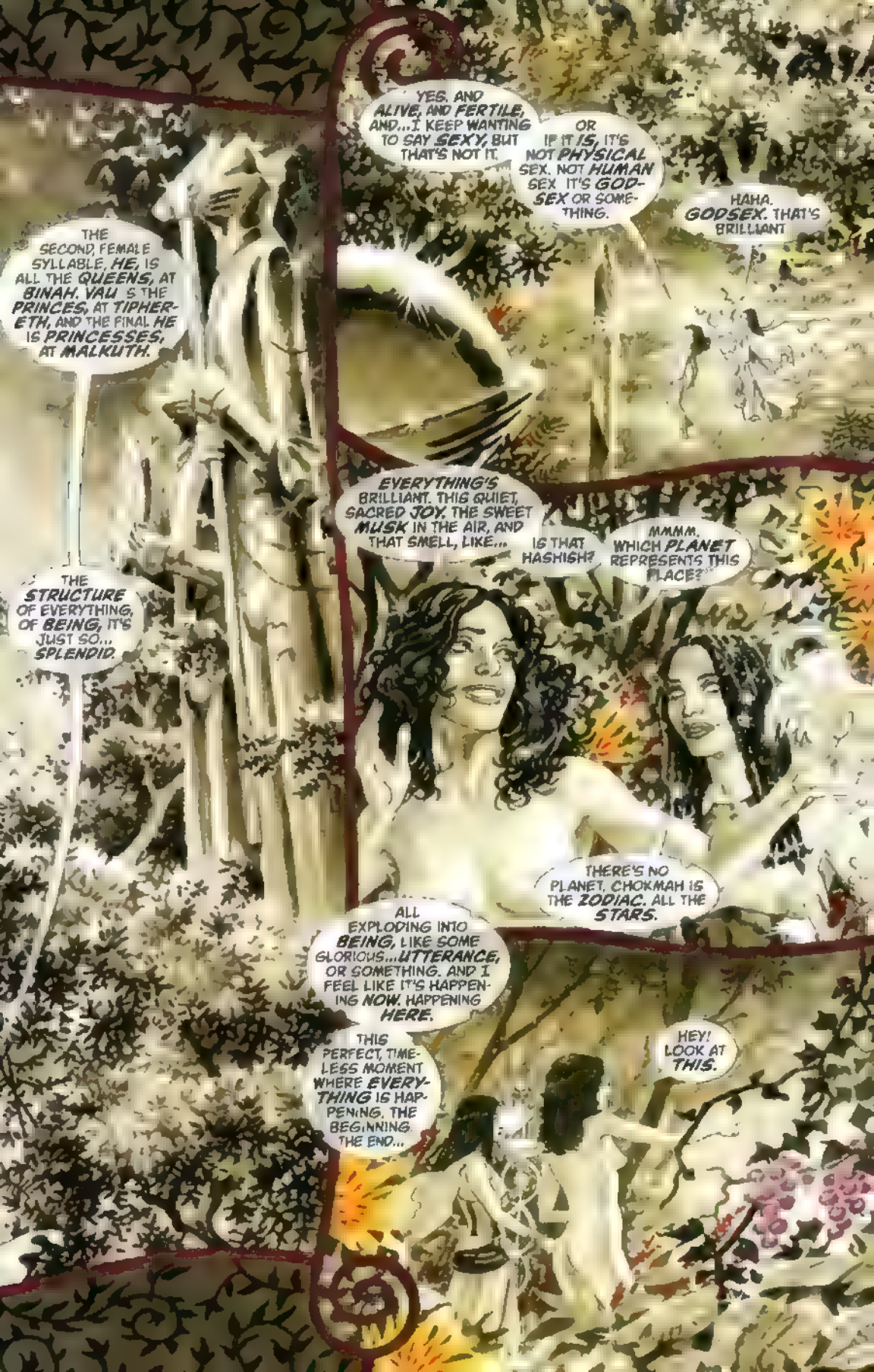
AOW. JESUS.
JESUS, I'M AN OLD MAN. YOU COULD HAVE KILLED ME.
YES, WELL, DON'T CHANGE INTO CLEAN UNDERWEAR JUST YET, DARLING. I STILL MIGHT.
YOU KNOW, IN THE TWENTIES, MAGICIANS STILL HAD STYLE.
TURBANS, TUXEDOS AND TARTS IN TIARAS. SMASHING TIMES.
NOW IT'S ALL SIGILS, STUBBLE AND SELF-ABUSE, APPARENTLY. YOU CAN STILL ACTUALLY DO PROPER MAGIC, I ASSUME?
DON'T PUSH ME, LADY. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANT YOU TO DO SOME SCRYING FOR ME.
I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHERE SOPHIE IS IN THE IMMATERIA, AND WHEN SHE'LL BE COMING HOME.
YEAH? AND WHY D'YOU WANNA KNOW?

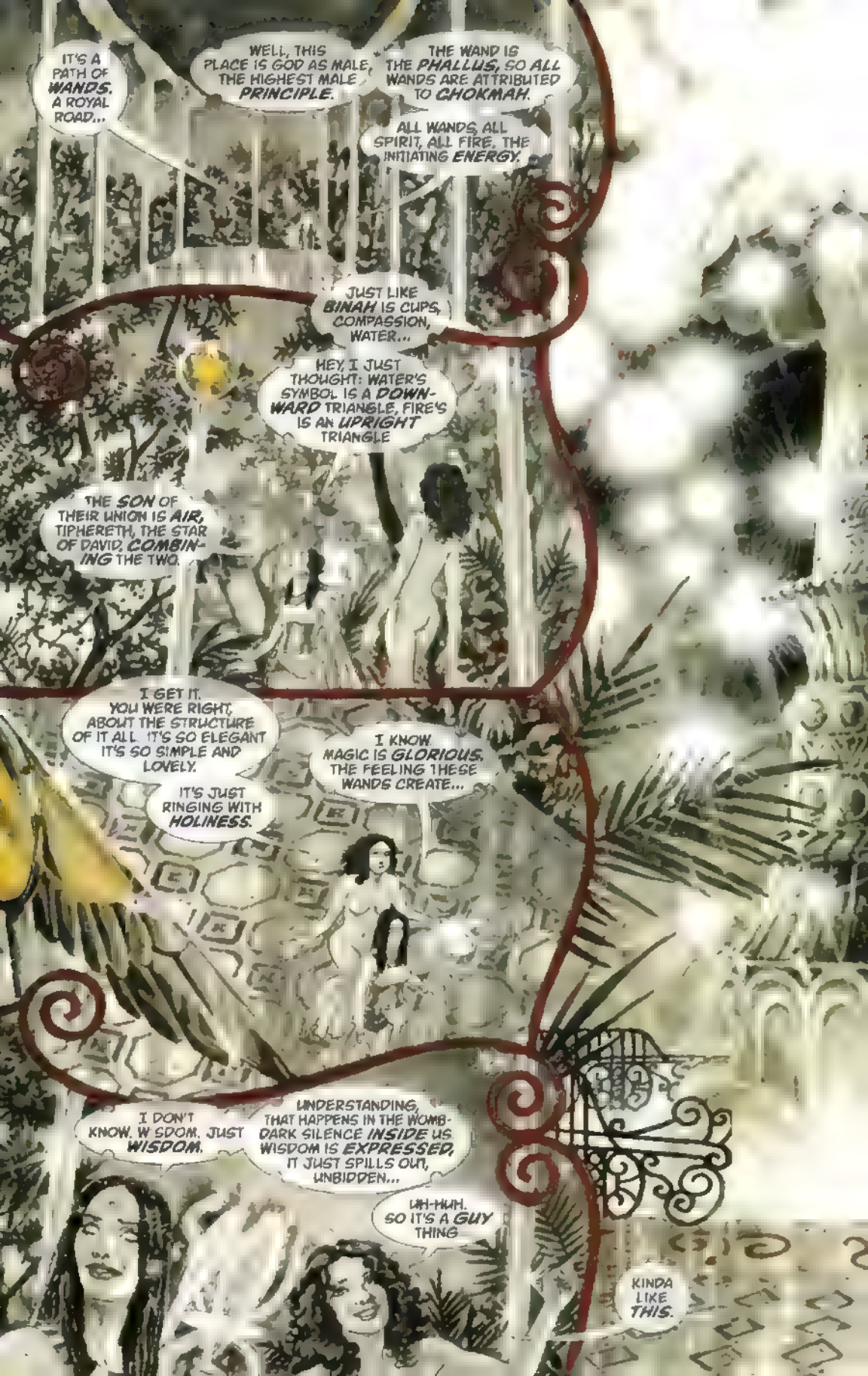
I
JUST
DO.
NOW, DO YOU HAVE A SCRYING GLASS, OR DOES EVERYONE SEARCH ON THE NET THESE DAYS?
I GOT A QUARTZ CRYSTAL.
ED KELLY HIMSELF NEVER USED BETTER.
NOW LEMME SEE...
HMM. I DUNNO. I'M LOOKING TO SEE SOPHIE, BUT WHAT I'M GETTING, IT'S HARD TO TELL.
ALL I SEE IS GRAY.

PROM
ALAN MOORE
WRITER
CO-CREATORS
J.H. WILLIAMS III
PENCILLER, PAINTED COLOR PAGES 8-24
MICK GRAY
INKER
OH, SOPHIE. IT'S ALL SHINING. AND THE RAINBOW DEW. I FEEL LIKE JEWELS.
I LOVE THIS. I £$%&ING LOVE THIS. AND I LOVE YOU.
JUST FOR EXISTING, I LOVE YOU.
OH, BARBARA. BARBARA, THIS IS SO BEAUTIFUL.
I CAN FEEL MY SOUL ON FIRE. WHITE WINGS SPREADING OUT, OPAL AT THE FEATHER-TIPS. OH.
OHHHH, £$%&.
YEAH. AND THIS EDEN HUMIDITY.

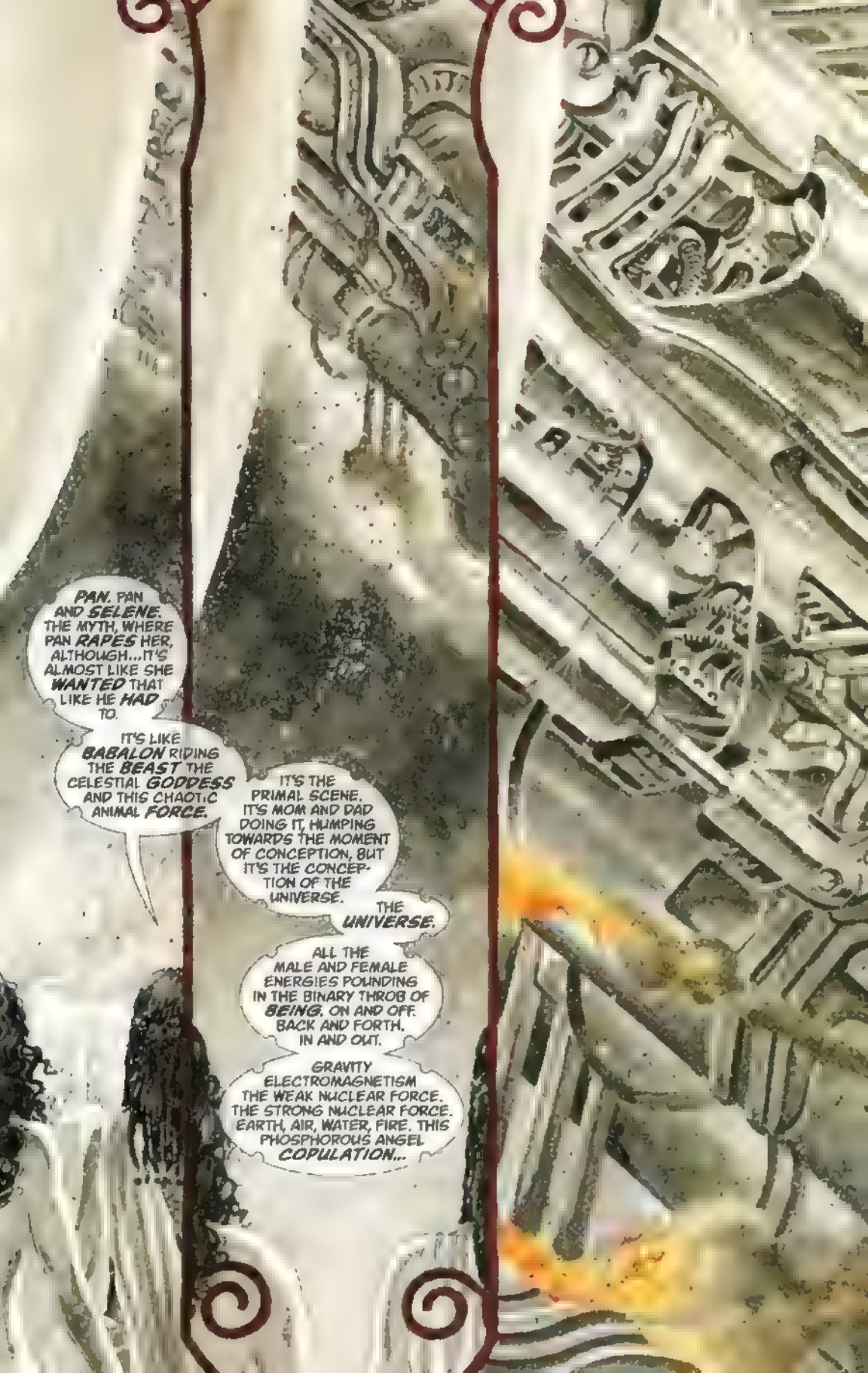
ETHEREAL
CHORMAH
ET IN ARCADIA EGO...
JEROMY COX
COLORS, PAGES 1-7
TODD KLEIN
LETTERS
KRISTY QUINN
ASSISTANT EDITOR
SCOTT DUNBIER
EDITOR
SO THIS IS CHORMAH. THIS IS WISDOM. OF COURSE. IT HAD TO BE LIKE THIS.
WAIT. WAIT A MINUTE. I WANT TO TAKE MY CLOTHES OFF.
I WANT TO BE NAKED IN THIS...THIS EXPERIENCE.
MY NEW ROBES FEEL OKAY. THEY FEEL RIGHT.
I'M SOMEBODY NEW HERE.

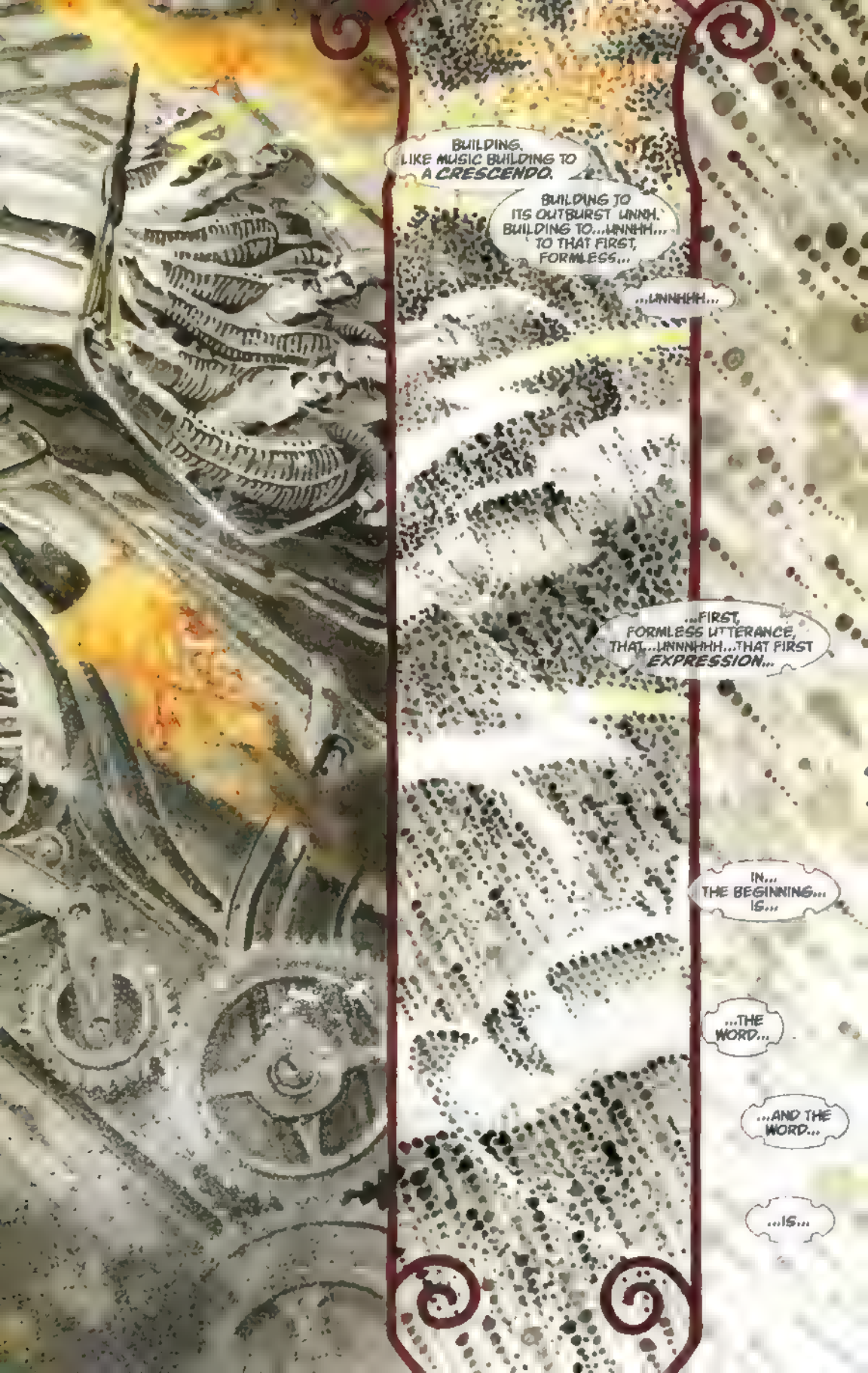

MMM. AND THIS PLACE IS NEW, AND FRESH, BUT IT'S BEEN HERE FOREVER.
JUST THIS FEELING OF...OF GENTLE, SHIMMERING...GRACE, I GUESS
WHAT DID THOSE FOUR WORDS NEAR THE ARCH MEAN? "ET IN ARCADIA EGO...?"
I THINK IT'S THIS FAMOUS INCOMPLETE QUOTE FROM A POUSSIN PAINTING "AND IN ARCADIA, I..."
ARCADIA WAS AN ANCIENT GREEK STATE, A COMPLETE WILDERNESS, WHERE PAN WAS SUPPOSED TO DWELL.
"THE LAND BEFORE THE MOON."
I GUESS IF THE THIRD, FEMALE SPHERE IS THE MOON'S HIGHEST ASPECT, THEN THIS SECOND SPHERE COMES "BEFORE THE MOON."
THIS IS GOD AS MALE, THE HIGHEST MALE ELEMENT.
AND WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
THEY MUST BE THE FOUR TAROT KNIGHTS, OR KINGS. THEY'RE ALL ATTRIBUTED TO THIS PLACE, JUST LIKE ALL THE QUEENS ARE AT BINAH.
THERE'S A NAME OF GOD, IHVH, PRONOUNCED YOD-HE-VAU-HE, THAT EXPRESSES THE MEANING OF THE WHOLE TREE OF LIFE.
THIS PLACE, CHOKMAH, IS REPRESENTED BY THE FIRST SYLLABLE, YOD. IT'S THE INITIAL EXPRESSION OF THE ENERGY. IT'S MALE. IT'S FIRE. IT'S WANDS. IT'S SPIRIT.


YES. AND ALIVE, AND FERTILE, AND...I KEEP WANTING TO SAY SEXY, BUT THAT'S NOT IT.
OR IF IT IS, IT'S NOT PHYSICAL SEX. NOT HUMAN SEX. IT'S GOD-SEX OR SOMETHING.
HAHA. GODSEX. THAT'S BRILLIANT
THE SECOND, FEMALE SYLLABLE, HE, IS ALL THE QUEENS, AT BINAH. VAU S THE PRINCES, AT TIPHERETH, AND THE FINAL HE IS PRINCESSES, AT MALKUTH.
EVERYTHING'S BRILLIANT. THIS QUIET, SACRED JOY, THE SWEET MUSK IN THE AIR, AND THAT SMELL, LIKE...
IS THAT HASHISH?
MMMM. WHICH PLANET REPRESENTS THIS PLACE?
THE STRUCTURE OF EVERYTHING, OF BEING, IT'S JUST SO... SPLENDID.
THERE'S NO PLANET, CHOKMAH IS THE ZODIAC. ALL THE STARS.
ALL EXPLODING INTO BEING, LIKE SOME GLORIOUS...UTTERANCE, OR SOMETHING. AND I FEEL LIKE IT'S HAPPENING NOW. HAPPENING HERE.
THIS PERFECT, TIMELESS MOMENT WHERE EVERYTHING IS HAPPENING. THE BEGINNING. THE END...
HEY! LOOK AT THIS.


IT'S A PATH OF WANDS, A ROYAL ROAD...
WELL, THIS PLACE IS GOD AS MALE, THE HIGHEST MALE PRINCIPLE.
THE WAND IS THE PHALLUS, SO ALL WANDS ARE ATTRIBUTED TO CHOKMAH.
ALL WANDS, ALL SPIRIT, ALL FIRE, THE INITIATING ENERGY.
JUST LIKE BINAH IS CUPS, COMPASSION, WATER...
HEY, I JUST THOUGHT: WATER'S SYMBOL IS A DOWN-WARD TRIANGLE, FIRE'S IS AN UPRIGHT TRIANGLE
THE SON OF THEIR UNION IS AIR, TIPHERETH, THE STAR OF DAVID, COMBIN-ING THE TWO.
I GET IT. YOU WERE RIGHT, ABOUT THE STRUCTURE OF IT ALL. IT'S SO ELEGANT IT'S SO SIMPLE AND LOVELY.
IT'S JUST RINGING WITH HOLINESS.
I KNOW. MAGIC IS GLORIOUS. THE FEELING THESE WANDS CREATE...
I DON'T KNOW. W SDOM. JUST WISDOM.
UNDERSTANDING, THAT HAPPENS IN THE WOMB-DARK SILENCE INSIDE US WISDOM IS EXPRESSED, IT JUST SPILLS OUT, UNBIDDEN...
UH-HUH. SO IT'S A GUY THING
KINDA LIKE THIS.

OHHHH! HA HA!
SOPHIE, YOU WERE RIGHT! THIS IS WHERE ALL THE STARS SPURT INTO BEING!
BARBARA, YOU LOOK SO GOOD. THIS WILL SOUND WRONG, BUT I WISH WE'D HAD SEX WHILE YOU WERE ALIVE
IT ISN'T SEX, EXACTLY...
YEAH. I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. AND I FEEL WE CAN JUST SAY THAT HERE, HONESTLY, WITHOUT ANY MISUNDERSTANDING.
I KNOW. IT'S WHISPERING AFTERWARDS. SOUL TOUCHING SOUL.
OH, BARBARA
I KNOW. LOVE. WE LOVE EACH OTHER.
OH, SOPHIE WE'RE AT THE SOURCE.
YES. OF ALL EXISTENCE
ALL EXISTENCE. THE MOMENT IT BEGINS. THE MOMENT IT ENDS. I LOVE YOU.
GODSEX. IT'S ALL GODSEX. IT'S SO PURE, AND IT'S SO DIRTY, IT'S...
WHAT'S THAT WORD? THE WORD THAT MEANS SACRED AND PROFANE?
TABOO!


PAN. PAN AND SELENE. THE MYTH, WHERE PAN RAPES HER, ALTHOUGH...IT'S ALMOST LIKE SHE WANTED THAT LIKE HE HAD TO.
IT'S LIKE BABALON RIDING THE BEAST THE CELESTIAL GODDESS AND THIS CHAOTIC ANIMAL FORCE.
IT'S THE PRIMAL SCENE. IT'S MOM AND DAD DOING IT, HUMPING TOWARDS THE MOMENT OF CONCEPTION, BUT IT'S THE CONCEPTION OF THE UNIVERSE.
THE UNIVERSE.
ALL THE MALE AND FEMALE ENERGIES POUNDING IN THE BINARY THROB OF BEING. ON AND OFF. BACK AND FORTH. IN AND OUT.
GRAVITY ELECTROMAGNETISM THE WEAK NUCLEAR FORCE. THE STRONG NUCLEAR FORCE. EARTH, AIR, WATER, FIRE. THIS PHOSPHOROUS ANGEL COPULATION...


BUILDING. LIKE MUSIC BUILDING TO A CRESCENDO.
BUILDING TO ITS OUTBURST UNNH. BUILDING TO...UNNHH... TO THAT FIRST, FORMLESS...
...UNNHHH...
...FIRST, FORMLESS UTTERANCE, THAT...UNNNHHH...THAT FIRST EXPRESSION...
IN... THE BEGINNING... IS...
...THE WORD...
...AND THE WORD...
...IS...

# ०१००

HOLY £%&.
I JUST CAME EVERY-THING JUST CAME.
W-WAS THAT THE BIG BANG?
...Y...
...GIVE ME A SECOND...
YES. THAT'S HOW IT ALL...
...CAME INTO BEING...
AND LOOK. IT'S STILL GOING ON.
IT'S ALWAYS STILL GOING ON. SPACETIME. THE BEGINNING. THE END
ALL THE TIME ALL AT ONCE.
COME ON LET'S WALK.

I WAS JUST THINKING, ABOUT WHAT I LEARNED AT BINAH. ME, PRESIDING OVER APOCALYPSE.
THIS IS IT, ISN'T IT? REVELATION. THE HEAVENLY LIGHT.
THIS IS WHAT EVERYTHING BEGINS IN. THIS IS WHAT EVERYTHING ENDS IN.
THIS HUMMING PRISMATIC RADIANCE...
BUT ON AN EARTHLY PLANE, I MEAN, IT'S GOING TO BE TERRIFYING.
TERRIFYING.
YEAH THIS... THIS ILLUMINATION, THE MOMENT WHEN THE LIGHTS GO ON
YES.
BARBARA, I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT'S OCCURRING BACK ON EARTH. ANYTHING COULD HAVE HAPPENED WHILE I'VE BEEN GONE.
I KNOW. MAYBE SOMETHING'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW.
YOU THINK IT'S STARTED? THE END OF THE WORLD?

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
I DON'T KNOW.
JUST THE WIND, I GUESS.
YEAH. IT MUST BE RISING.
ALL OF A SUDDEN I GOT ALL THESE GOOSEBUMPS.
HEY, LOOK OVER THERE. THE COLORS ARE CHANGING.
IT'S THE NEXT PATH. THOSE STAIRS. AND IS THAT SOMEBODY SITTING ON THEM?

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS. YOU'RE EVERYWHERE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
TALKING TO SPIRITS AND DELUSIONS, EVIDENTLY.
AS FOR HERE, I'M IN MY TEMPLE AT CEFALU. IT'S 1921, AND I'M PREPARING TO BECOME THE IPSISSIMUS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR STEVEN SHELLEY.
ISN'T IPSISSIMUS THE HIGHEST MAGICAL GRADE, THAT CORRESPONDS TO KETHER?
I THINK HE PASSED ME EARLIER, HEADING UP PATH ELEVEN HERE.
"THE FOOL."
IT'S HIGHER THAN KETHER.
STEVEN SHELLEY, YOU SAY?
YOU KNOW, I'M STILL NOT SURE I'M READY FOR IPSISSIMUS.
I THINK I'M AFRAID. YOU SEE, FROM HERE YOU CAN LOOK UP AND BEHOLD THE VISION OF GOD, FACE TO FACE.
UP AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS.
DON'T LOOK AT IT FOR TOO LONG, OR YOU'LL NEVER LOOK AWAY.

UH...
B-BARBARA, THAT'S ENOUGH. DON'T LOOK AT IT ANY MORE.
OH GOD. OH GOD, I WAS GONE.
BUT...IF THAT'S WHERE STEVE WENT, THAT'S WHERE I HAVE TO GO.
O-OKAY. ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T COME WITH US, MR. CROWLEY?
OH, I'M ALREADY THERE. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THERE, JUST LIKE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SITTING UNDECIDED HERE.
YOU GO AHEAD. GOOD LUCK WITH GOD.

OKAY. OKAY...
I FEEL LIKE AN IDIOT DOING THIS, BUT... BUT I FEEL I HAVE TO TRUST THE IMPULSE, YOU KNOW?
WELL, THAT'S WHAT THIS "FOOL" PATH IS ABOUT. IRRATIONAL LEAPS INTO THE UN-KNOWN.
BARBARA, I'M SCARED. LET'S HOLD HANDS AGAIN.
SURE.
WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS NEXT SPHERE YOU'RE NOT TELLING ME?
!-IT'S THE HIGHEST SPHERE, SPHERE ONE. THE CROWN.
YOU CAN BE ANNIHILATED IN IT. YOU CAN FUSE WITH IT.
FUSE WITH IT?
YES.
THE WHITE LIGHT. THE PURE, PERFECT EXPERIENCE OF GOD.
SOME SOULS JUST DISSOLVE INTO IT, FOREVER. SOME SOULS GO INTO IT AND DON'T COME BACK. BUT THEN...
...WHY WOULD YOU?
NEXT:
THE SERPENT & THE DOVE